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Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Cancel ) A spacer block for attaching a guard rail to a post, comprising:  
a pair of spaced apart opposing side walls having respective first ends and second ends;  
a top panel disposed proximate said first end of said side walls;  
a bottom panel disposed proximate said second end of said side walls;  
said top panel said bottom panel and side walls forming a generally rectangular block having  
a first front face and a second rear face;  
an engagement mechanism operably coupled proximate said top panel, said engagement  
mechanism operable to engage said block with said post;  
resting mechanism operably coupled proximate said bottom panel for supporting a bottom  
edge of a guard rail thereon;  
at least one mounting bore extending there through from said first front face to said second  
rear face; and  
an alignment mechanism operably coupled to at least one side wall.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The spacer block of claim [1] 12 comprising a thermoplastic  
polymer and a rubber material.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The spacer block of claim [1] 12, comprising a structural foam  
thermoplastic composition.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The spacer block of claim [1] 12, comprising a structural foam  
thermoplastic and rubber composition.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The spacer block of Claim [1] 12, further comprising:  
a medial wall disposed between the side walls, the medial wall positioned generally  
perpendicular to the side walls and generally parallel to the top and bottom panels;

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